The
Niagara Advance
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Thursday, February 18, 2016

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Family time

FRED MERCNIK/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

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Niagara-on-the-Lake's 'strong brand' good for growth

SUZANNE MASON
SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD

Niagara-on-the-Lake was the latest stop for Niagara Region staff and councillors looking for feedback from the 12 lower-tier municipalities for its proposed strategies for growth in the peninsula over the next 25 years.

"Keep doing what you're doing," Rino Mostacci, the Region's commissioner of planning and development services, told town council at its meeting last week.

"People want to move to and work in communities that have a strong brand."

He congratulated Niagara-on-the-Lake for meeting the Region's target for population growth of about one per cent per year over the past five years and for its investments in the community that have resulted in a good quality of life and high property values.

Mostacci said the Region has identified four goals to increase prosperity throughout the peninsula — an improved transportation network to move people and goods, investment in entrepreneurship, a labour-ready workforce and positioning Niagara for global markets.

Coun. Paolo Miele said without adequate funding for inter-municipal transit connections, it would be difficult for Niagara to secure GO Transit.

"I am confident that GO will come to Niagara," said Mostacci, agreeing that a regional transportation service is necessary for that to happen.

He also called the Niagara District Airport "a significant regional asset."

Coun. Terry Flynn said Niagara municipalities seem to get very territorial when regional issues are raised.

"I see (economic) struggles in the southern tier," he said. "It's a huge undertaking for the Region to get all the municipalities on board."

Mostacci agreed that the southern communities are not currently competitive within the region and he expects that the western Niagara municipalities and Niagara-on-the-Lake will continue to grow.

He said Niagara Region's practice of allowing individual municipalities to market and plan their employment lands have put the area at a disadvantage, compared to competitors like the Greater Toronto Area, Hamilton and Halton.

Mostacci said the development of an integrated strategy for employment lands is being studied at by the Region.

Regional staff and councillors will continue to do presentations for other municipal councils and hold public information sessions in various communities to gather feedback on proposed economic growth strategies.

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Brock to help promote town as conference destination

POSTMEDIA FILE PHOTO

Brock University president Jack Lightstone has formed a partnership with NOTL to promote the town as a conference destination.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte says he is pleased to be working with Brock University.

Niagara-on-the-Lake and Brock University are working to turn the tourism town into a destination for conferences and research meetings.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte and University President Jack Lightstone signed a memorandum of understanding last week to create the Brock-Niagara Forum for Advanced Research and Leadership.

Under the agreement, the municipality will provide space in its community centre for use as a base for the project, while the university uses its research partnerships to promote the popular theatre and agri-tourism community as an attractive choice for conferences, retreats and meetings.

Lightstone said NOTL has the reputation and tourism infrastructure to appeal to conference groups, and Brock welcomes opportunities to partner with municipalities to bring economic and cultural benefits to the region.

"This is a good chance to showcase your beautiful town within our beautiful Region," Lightstone said, "and it could lead to a good opportunity for Brock to advance its research mandate and reputation."

Darte said he and the town council welcome the partnership.

"Anything we can do in Niagara-on-the-Lake to support education is a good move," said Darte. "Working with Brock would be a great step in that direction. Hopefully we will be able to do more with Brock in the future."

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Rachael Werner*, Nancy Brazeau**, Ryan Crawford, Bev Hotchkiss & Michelle Chappell*

As the NIAGARA PANACHE team, we enjoy promoting businesses in our community. The following is the Backhouse story.

Backhouse proprietors, Bev Hotchkiss and Ryan Crawford, met over 10 years ago in the space that Backhouse now occupies. They fell in love there, they had their wedding reception there, and finally last July 1st they saw their dream come true when they opened Backhouse.

Along with Backhouse, they have a 2-acre farm on Concesssion 1 where they procure the produce for their restaurant. They employ a full-time farmer, an artisanal bread baker, a cheese-maker and a full-time butcher. Chef Crawford and his team cook, surrounded by an 18 seat chef's table, on a wood fired-grille and in a wood-fired oven.

They have an extensive craft cocktail program which uses only locally sourced ingredients, alongside a sophisticated bar program that sources exceptional local wines and small international producers.

They had never anticipated being able to open at 242 Mary Street and are thrilled that they were able to return to the community to continue their journey.

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FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Andrey Nikulin from Hotz Environmental Services sorts through items at Niagara Region's new permanent household hazardous waste depot at Humberstone Landfill in Welland,

New depots for hazardous waste

FRANKI IKEMAN
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Region has eliminated its household hazardous waste event days by opening a permanent drop-off depot at Humberstone Landfill in Welland.

The hazardous waste depot is one of two opening this year, the second being a permanent site in Thorold this spring.

The Region is also opening a partial service depot for paint, batteries and propane cylinders in Fort Erie.

Continued on Page 5

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Region to open second depot in Thorold

Continued from Page 4

Waste management services director Catherine Habermebl said the aim is to make it convenient for residents to properly and safely dispose of their household hazardous waste.

"Really it's about convenience to the consumer, to the customer," Habermebl said.

She said the region wanted to make sure that no resident had to drive more than 25 kilometres to access a drop-off depot. She also said that the program will increase the hours per year for residents to dispose of their hazardous waste to more than 5,000, instead of just 117.

Habermebl said it's important that people do bring in their household hazardous waste for proper disposal — items such as aerosol cans containing hazardous substances, antifreeze, batteries, propane barbecue tanks, corrosive cleaners, fertilizers, paint and gasoline, among others — for environmental and economic reasons.

"These are hazardous materials, they contain volatile chemicals and if they are disposed improperly there could be potential harm to the collector, if they get into the blue bin potential harm to the people working on the sorting line," Habermebl said.

Improper disposal of household hazardous waste in drains, sewers, lawns and landfill sites is illegal under a region waste management bylaw.

The Humberstone hazardous waste depot is open Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays and statutory holidays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information visit www.niagararegion.ca/waste.

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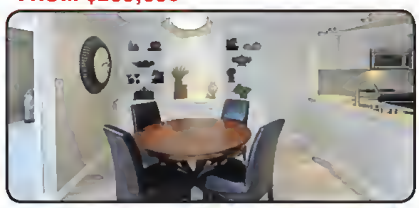

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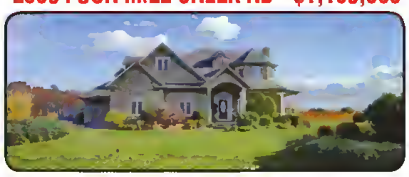

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The Niagara Advance

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Editorial

Summer Games good goal for Niagara

While Niagara was hosting the water events for the Pan Am Games last summer, Toronto 2015 Games chairman David Peterson mused about Toronto — and parts of Ontario, including Niagara — bidding to host the 2028 Summer Olympics.

At the time, we supported his call as something at the very least worth pursuing, and possibly as something that would have great long-term benefit for Niagara.

It might lead to improvements at the Henley Island rowing facility and the paddling centre on the Welland recreational canal. Other events would probably be held elsewhere.

Of course, history shows that hosting the Olympics brings with it an enormous price tag that can cripple an economy and leave a country with world-class sports facilities it has little use for once the two-week party is over.

People like Peterson are hard-wired to dream big. But would he have been so enthusiastic if he was still premier of Ontario and on the hook for the bill?

Now comes word that a much more realistic dream could be within reach — for Niagara to host the 2021 Canada Summer Games.

If the bid was made and it was successful, the rewards would still be great. Proponents estimate the Games could pump as much as $100 million into the Niagara economy, through investments and spending by visitors.

The risk, though, would be only a fraction of that the Olympics would bring.

Nothing is for certain yet. While Ontario has been awarded the right to host the 16-day event, the process for regions or municipalities to bid for them has only just begun.

The Niagara Sport Commission, which is leading the effort, is still feeling out municipalities across the region for support.

Commission CEO Bram Cotton said this week "my hope is that we can get the mayors and the regional politicians to stand up and say, 'You know what, we want the Games. It's our time.'"

Mayor Walter Sendzik estimated it would cost $30 million to host the 2021 Games, and that includes funding from the provincial and federal governments.

Throw in sponsorships and contributions and the cost to Niagara would appear to be quite reasonable.

The prize would be not only the revenue the host community would receive, but also the improved facilities that would remain after the athletes leave.

At the national level, sports like baseball, cycling, soccer and track and field all require top-grade fields with fan-friendly seating areas. At first glance, that alone makes the Games a prize worth chasing. And the Henley and Welland water sites would probably still receive upgrades.

It's still early and maybe further investigation will reveal this isn't such a promising proposition. But from where we sit now, we say go for it, Niagara.

Do you remember?

FROM THE COLLECTION OF JIM SMITH

Jim Smith says his father told him about a skating rink on the commons, but despite his collection of thousands of Niagara-on-the-Lake photos, he never thought he'd see a picture of it. However he recently came across this photo of Fred Curtis, the town barber for many years, and two unidentified people, taken in 1925 on a part of the commons that became the site of war-time houses on Castlereagh and Nelles Streets. In the background can be seen the Niagara Historical Society's Memorial Hall.

Column

Library extends hours of opening thanks to budget increase

CATHY SIMPSON

There are some changes to the hours of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library - it now opens at 9 a.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. year round, thanks to town council's approval of the library board's 2016 budget request.

Monday openings are planned in 2017 after the library renovation - view the draft floor plan on our web site or in-person at the library, and stay tuned for renovation updates.

We are also pleased to offer improved eBook, eAudiobook and eMagazine offerings in 2016. We've moved from the shared Ontario eBook collection to the 3M Cloud for eBooks and One Click Digital for eAudiobooks. This change means you'll get the books you want faster because our collections are reserved for NOTL Public Library cardholders only. We're also able to order books you suggest so please let us know what you'd like and help us build the collection.

The switch to Zinio for eMagazines means members now have access to the world's largest newsstand of full-color, digital magazines for immediate checkout and reading on your computer and mobile devices. Go to our web site to browse the collection of popular new and backlist titles with no holds, no checkout periods and no borrowing limits.

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It's time to have end-of-life conversation

My wife and I recently saw our primary care physician for one of our follow-up visits. We're lucky – our physician is a very good listener but also asks good and sometimes challenging questions.

Such as, have you two made any decisions and plans for end-of-life care? I confessed rather sheepishly that we were working on it, which is to say we hadn't. That this is an important bit of homework and conversation we should all do was highlighted by the recent bombshell and challenge from the Supreme Court of Canada handed down recently which requires the Government of Canada and the medical profession to get their acts together about assisted suicide and end-of-life planning in general.

Thinking locally, these are issues, which should he discussed publicly – perhaps using the InfoHealth format, working through our library, or perhaps one of our local churches could take the lead.

The fear of many Canadians is that at the end of our lives we will lose control of the process and needless, painful procedures and treatments will be foisted on us and prolong our suffering without our consent (or the consent of whoever's legally empowered to make those decisions on our behalf). That's not only a common fear, but in my view and experience an entirely understandable and well-founded fear.

In the U.S. for example, in the last month of life, one in two patients ends up in an emergency room, one in three in an intensive care unit and one in five has some sort of surgery, some or all of which may have been well intended, but which for some patients, simply prolongs the agony for what should be a peaceful, comfortable transition with family and friends present and the medical profession well in the background.

There's no reason to think that those figures for Medicare patients in the U.S. would differ much from the Canadian experience. When we die, I suspect we would all like to die as my father-in-law did, in his own home, surrounded by his wife and immediate family with nary a white coat or green outfit in sight. But except for hospice care, that's not what happens for most Canadians.

The problem is that many Canadians haven't talked the issue out with their spouse, family members and physician and don't have advance care directives in place. And in any case, those advance directives in Canada have little practical clout when it comes to changing the trajectory of our care in the ER or ICU. Either the directive isn't available, or too vaguely written to cover all the nuances of resuscitation and ventilator support or whatever other health care issues arise near the end of life.

Here there's an important difference with patients south of the border where most states have now enacted Physician (or Medical) Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST or MOLST). These orders, signed by a physician, are binding on physician care in the ER and ICU and specifically state which forms of life support are accepted or rejected. The forms must be completed by a physician and signed by the patient or whoever's legally charged with making decisions for the patient.

The form is brightly colored to be conspicuous and left near the front door of the home of the patient. It goes with the patient wherever he or she goes. Not a bad idea because these orders override any orders in the ER or ICU.

Even so, many physicians remain very conservative when it comes to end-of-life issues for their patients, and without those forms in place, those who make those all important decisions in the ER and ICU, too often default to doing whatever prolongs life.

Several recent surveys have shown that the very physicians, who are so aggressive at prolonging life for others, don't seem to want that for themselves or their family when the time comes.

Strikes me as hypocrisy, wouldn't you say?

Then there's the matter of assisted suicide, which few Canadian physicians support or want to get involved in partly because their default setting is to do whatever's necessary to prolong life. Unfortunately this is especially so in the very places where patients and families in the last stages of their life fear to tread, the ER and ICU. And with few exceptions, governments in North America are unwilling to intervene.

The game-changer this time around is that the Supreme Court of Canada mandates just such a discussion, hopefully leading to real reform to hetter meet the needs of the public.

Have you had any of these conversations with your spouse, family, physician or lawyer? Are you interested in a puhlic forum on the subject? If so, let your MP and MPP or your local parish know. It's time to have this conversation locally, where it counts, don't you think?

Don't forget March break programs at the library

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 6

Did you know you can pick up and drop off library books, DVDs, CDs and magazines in St. Davids? Library lockers are located in the lobby of the fire hall at 745 Warner Road and accessible 24/7 with a door access code and a library card. Put what you want on hold and we'll email you when it's ready for pick up.

I appreciate reminders and thought you might too so we're now offering the Library Reminders service. Receive library program information, reminders, newsletters and alerts in your email inbox or cell phone via text. It's a free, safe and simple messaging tool that lets us share important updates and reminders while keeping your contact information private. To receive messages via text, send us a text @notlpl to 289-270-1593. To receive messages via email, send an email to notlpl@mail.remind.com.

There are lots of great activities planned for this year's March break including a concert by Sonshine and Broccoli on Friday, March 18 at 1 p.m. Children of all ages can sing and dance along with this fun, high energy duo. Get your tickets at the library and get the March break program brochure for details about the rest of the week's activities.

While the kids enjoy March break fun at the library, you can shop at our children's book sale featuring books, movies and music that appeal to the younger crowd. Our spring book sale follows from April 28 to May 7 and features gardening, cooking, renovating and other fun spring stuff. Please keep your donations coming. We appreciate your support of these important library fundraisers.

For more details about any library program or service, please contact us at 905-468-2023 or visit us at 10 Anderson Lane or www.notlpubliclibrary.org.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sophie and Daphne Cadeau enjoyed the library's recent Valentine's Day craft.

Region wants public to weigh in on long-term care homes

Niagara Region is gathering public input regarding redevelopment of its long-term care homes.

Plans are being developed to replace three of the Region's eight long-term care facilities that do not comply with new provincial building standards, including Gilmore Lodge in Fort Erie, Upper Canada Lodge in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Linhaven in St. Catharines.

To gather information about Niagara residents' priorities and preferences for how and where long-term care services are delivered, a telephone survey will begin Tuesday.

Conducted by public opinion research firm Pollara, the survey will run until the end of the month. The company will also conduct a series of focus groups.

A similar online survey, open to anyone interested in participating, will be available atniagararegion.ca by the end of next week.

Public input will be used to assist the Region's long-term care redevelopment task force as it develops options for replacing the three facilities.

The surveys and focus groups will build on consultations that regional staff and task force members have been undertaking with other service providers, community partners and stakeholders.

Results of the research will assist in development of service delivery options, including potential partnerships with private or not-for-profit organizations to deliver a range of on-site services.

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Talk Topics

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Surprise serenade warms the heart

MARYANNE FIRTH
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Gary Russell gave it no second thought when wife Jackie suggested the pair take a stroll along the Port Dalhousie pier Sunday.

Despite the frigid weather, the Cooks Mills couple, who were in the area at a nearby party, bundled up, grabbed something hot to drink and set out to have some alone time — or so Gary thought — in the idyllic setting.

Jackie, however, had different plans.

She had conspired with local musician Whitney Pea to have an impromptu performance along the waterway.

When the singer, a Niagara-on-the-Lake native, approached the Russells, who were walking arm in arm, Gary immediately recognized the familiar face.

He had fallen in love with Whitney's music at a local handmade market event — a fact Jackie kept tucked in her back pocket as she waited for Valentine's Day to arrive.

Hoping to thrust more live music into the love-filled holiday, Whitney created a special promotion offering to serenade fans' loved ones on Feb. 14.

When Jackie heard about the idea, she knew it was perfect for her other half and began planning to make the surprise happen.

After being treated to two songs by Whitney, Gary admitted he was feeling "overwhelmed, but in a good way" by his wife's efforts.

Jackie worked hard to keep the surprise a secret, making sure to keep her correspondence with Whitney under wraps until the big day arrived.

The chilly weather nearly derailed plans, but it was ultimately decided all involved would brave the cold to share the memorable moment in just the right spot.

Whitney organized a 12-stop tour Sunday filled with private performances.

"Every experience was entirely unique," she said, having played for couples, families and even a women's brunch group. "I've really enjoyed each and every one."

In addition to the live performances, Whitney also delivered hand-signed vinyl copies of her new album, All a Feeling, in personalized gift wrap.

"It means a lot more than I thought it would, spending the day doing this," the singer said.

"It's been an enriching experience."

MARYANNE FIRTH/THE STANDARD

Niagara singer Whitney Pea helped Jackie Russell surprise husband Gary with a song on the Port Dalhousie pier for Valentine's Day on Sunday.

Niagara-on-the-Lake EST 1781

1593 Four Mile Creek Road,
PO Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
Tel: 905-468-3266 • Fax: 905-468-2959
E-Mail: info@notl.org
Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
www.notl.org

2016 MUNICIPAL TAX REMINDER NOTICE

INTERIM FIRST INSTALLMENT
DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016

Tax Rates
As per By-Law No. 4855-16

Payment may be made by **mail** or at the **Town Municipal Offices** at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road (Box 100). A 24-hour mail slot is located at the front (accessible drop box) and side entrances of the Town office for your convenience. Post-dated cheques are accepted. **Payment may be made electronically from your bank account using the 19-digit roll number.**

If payment is made at a bank or other pay station, your account will be credited only **after** the Town has received settlement from the bank. Please allow **ten (10)** working days for payment processing.

A penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first day of default and on the first day of each month thereafter. To avoid penalty and interest charges, **payment must be received at the Town Municipal Office by the due date. Penalties may not be waived.**

Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a taxpayer from the responsibility of payment of taxes and penalty. If you have **not** received your tax notice and a mortgage company does not pay on your behalf, please contact the Finance division at **905-468-3266 or fax 905-468-2959.**

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A MORE CONVENIENT WAY TO PAY YOUR TAXES?

Save time and potential late fees by paying your taxes through our Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP) plan or through online or telephone banking.

Also available is a **new electronic service called eSend,** in which property owners can receive their property tax bills and notices from the Town electronically by e-mail rather than in the mail.

For information on payment options or to sign up for eSend, please visit the Town's website at **www.notl.org** or contact our Finance division directly at **905-468-3266 ext. 230.**

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The Epicurean 905-468-3408
Tiara at Queen's Landing 905-468-2195
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Zees Grill at Shaw Club 905-468-5715

View the menus at www.niagaraonthelake.com

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Fort celebrates Family Day

FRED MERCNIK/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Hannah Last and her mother Kelly Last enjoy Family Day at Fort George. There were many activities for kids, including colouring over medallions, at the Officers' Quarters.

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340 GATE ST. | $1,395,000

This lovely 8 bdrm, 8 bath home sits in the heart of old town NOTL. This property has been run as a very successful B& B in the post converts well to single family home. Over 7000 square feet of living space.

Perry Quinn* 905-468-4214

789 LINE 1 ROAD | $519,000

Spacious raised bungalow on a 130 x 200 lot. 3 + 2 bedrooms - 2 full bathrooms. Oversized garage with extra storage room and entrance to basement.

Helen Mosca 905-650-5669 &
Aaron Cherney 905-401-7915

1885 CREEK RD | $444,900

Wonderful country location between Niagara-on-the-Lake and Virgil with full city services The 2 bedroom bungalow plan features a great room with gas fireplace, built-in cupboards and shelving, wood floors and patio doors to large raised wood deck.

Kevan & James* O'Connor 905-468-7700**

15550 NIAGARA PARKWAY | $1,995,000

With magnificent curb appeal this recently remodeled 5,000 sq ft 5 bedroom country estate offers all one could ever want for luxurious living on the famed Niagara Parkway.

Perry Quinn* 905-468-4214

OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 2-4PM

21 LORETTA UNIT 15 | $339,000

Bungalow townhouse 1377 square feet. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, main floor laundry - open concept living - single car garage

Helen Mosca 905-650-5669 &
Aaron Cherney 905-401-7915

481 GATE STREET | $1,055,000

Inspired by Greek Revival architecture this spectacular home is designed to be a luxurious upscale B & B The second floor provides 3 large private suites with high ceilings, full baths and gas fireplaces. All are double door entries off an expansive main hall the leads to a full second floor balcony.

Kevan & James* O'Connor 905-468-7700**

30 PINECROFT | $387,000

Executive unit, 2 bedroom, 2 bath bungalow, attached double car garage, gorgeous open concept elmwood kitchen and great room w/ valuted ceiling. Prices in development start at $368,000.

Dan Stefels* 905-327-7438
Katie Redekopp 905-658-1564**

4 STONERIDGE CR. | $599,900

Open concept gorgeous kitchen with huge island and quartz counters. Beautiful spa ensuite with tiled shower.

Dan Stefels* 905-327-7438
Katie Redekopp 905-658-1564

10 FIRELANE 12A | $1,795,000

Enjoy unobstructed lake views & magnificent sunsets on this rare waterfront property in NOTL. Custom built, this elegant 4000 sq ft home sits on 1.5 acres with salt water pool and beautifully landscaped Lake Ontario shoreline.

Kevan & James* O'Connor 905-468-7700**

Cheryl Marr
Sales Representative

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Must see! Call Bev Wiebe* 289-407-5899

Lesley Browne
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InfoHealth session discusses quality of health care

RANDY KLAASSEN
Special to the Advance

It was a full house to hear about the quality of health care in Canada, discussed at the recent InfoHealth lecture at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

The presentation was given by Dr. Ryan Chadwick, a first-year medical student with Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, McMaster University, Niagara Regional campus in St. Catharines.

In defining what is meant by quality, Chadwick began by identifying it to include health outcomes, patient experience, and value.

While value is the easiest to measure, it's not a simple matter of dollars, he said.

Chadwick compared the difficulty of measuring the cost of health care as the difference between a fast food outlet and a French restaurant.

"If you take a special date to a fast food outlet, you may not get the results you want."

Chadwick also pointed out that in health outcomes, Canada is only slightly ahead of the U.S.; however, both rank well below other countries, indicating we have much to learn.

"Given improvements in the last number of years we could learn a good deal from what the United Kingdom has done," he said.

When it comes to patient experience, wait times seem to get a good deal of attention. Sharing a list of various factors for wait times, Chadwick showed that cost is rarely a major issue.

What Chadwick identified as a major deficit of patient experience is medical error; the topic few want to really address. The reality is mistakes happen, and patients need to ask questions about their care.

In his summary Chadwick was not overly optimistic.

"Canada's health system overspends and underperforms. While Canada and Ontario are making some changes, they are likely insufficient to make a significant difference. Medical research has proven to be effective in both outcomes and value, yet it continues to be significantly underfunded."

During the question and answer session Dr. Andrea Delrue was asked to comment on the aging population of doctors as compared to quality of care. A lively discussion followed with a description of the ongoing examination and evaluation process of doctors, who must periodically renew their license to practice. It was noted that in addition to being evaluated, after a certain age, there are also random audits of a doctor's performance.

CONTINUED > PAGE 13

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Public shows concern for doctors' ongoing development

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 12

"The difficulty of an assessment measure for a physician is it cannot be age-based, but rather measured by their continuing professional development. If someone has concerns about a physician they can contact the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Their web site has information on their contact page," she said.

After finishing a Bachelor of Science degree Ryan Chadwick had hoped to study medicine, but was sidelined for a time by pursuing chemistry. He continued on to earn his PhD. in chemistry at McMaster University focusing on Carbon Nanotube-Polymer Composites. When asked about 'real world' applications of his research he explained a number of studies seeking to detect various drugs using breathalyzer tests.

"So far a process of drug detection using a breathalyzer has not been successful, but the research is continuing."

He is passionate about scientific research, and in the future anticipates continuing aspects of medical research.

InfoHealth lectures are hosted at the NOTL Public Library the second Wednesday of each month. The next session is on polypharmacy, and why some patients don't takeh eir medications, and will be at 1 pm, Wednesday, March 9.

The InfoHealth presentation is broadcast on Cogeco TV, Fridays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 11 a.m. for four weeks following each talk, and then available for sis months through Cogeco's On-Demand service.

RANDY KLAASSEN/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Dr. Ryan Chadwick and Dr. Andrea Delrue discussed the quality of health care in Canada at the recent InfoHealth session at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

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25 HARMONY DR. $798,000

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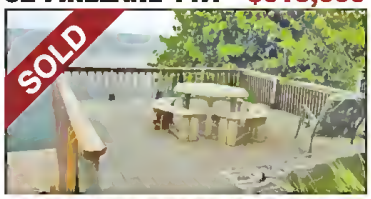
32 FIRELANE 11A $519,000



Lovely lake front home just minutes from Olde Town. This 3 bedroom, open concept cottage is well suited for a year round or summer residence. Enjoy the million dollar views from all the principal rooms or while relaxing on one of the decks. There is also a self-contained one bedroom suite in the basement equipped with a kitchen & a 3pc bathroom. **MLS New. Chris Bowron and Audrey Wright.**

1927 YORK ROAD $549,000

A spacious multilevel home with long views from the escarpment across Niagara's vineyards towards Lake Ontario. All rooms are of a generous size and the plan is versatile to accommodate a large family or home business. Special features include the large Mediterranean style kitchen, several balconies and a 40FT x 20FT concrete pool and 36FT x 16Ft pool house in an enclosed courtyard. **MLS N30054617. Viviane Elitoft and Thomas Elitoft.**

7 LAURA SECORD PLACE $699,000

Gorgeous park like setting! This very rare almost 3/4 acre private ravine lot is located on a quiet cul-de-sac. This four bedroom home with many updates has been very well maintained. The rear yard is a paradise with a 20 x 40 "wave pool", large deck, flagstone walkways and beautiful gardens. **MLS# N30049620. Victoria Bolduc and Sarah Gleddie.**

425 QUEENSTON ROAD $895,000

Potential Development Opportunity! Value is mostly in the 3.8 Acres although this three bedroom bungalow with in ground pool is very attractive and comfortable and showcases lovely country views. Visit our web site to see the virtual tour. **MLS# N30035832. Chris Bowron and Audrey Wright.**

137 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD $599,900

A one of a kind home in much desired St Davids, excellent access to Niagara-on-the-lake, Niagara Falls, 3 golf courses. Fondly known as the grist mill, of 1782, it offers a delightful mix of modern renovations. **MLS# N30045774. Cheryl Carmichael, Randy Armstrong.**

357 JOHNSON STREET $1,395,000

The perfect blend of Old Town traditional architecture with open, contemporary living spaces. Newly renovated from top to bottom with high end finishes throughout that are sure to impress. Nestled in a most sought after quiet neighbourhood, just a short stroll from the waterfront, theatre & fine dining. **MLS# N30055156. Marilyn Francis and Thomas Elitoft.**

158 PRIDEAUX STREET $1,395,000

A superb home in a prestigious location only one block from Queen St. This spacious home has been further upgraded by a sunroom addition with views across the exquisite gardens and a fabulous upper great room retreat. The huge master suite with garden access allows for main floor living. **MLS# N30050282. Viviane Elitoft and Thomas Elitoft.**

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Canada Games bid pondered for Niagara

KARENA WALTER
postmedia network

Proponents of a Niagara 2021 Canada Summer Games bid say the event could bring $85 million to $100 million to the region in investment and spending.

Niagara Sport Commission members were in Toronto last week for the launch of the Canada Games Council bidding process to learn about requirements and timelines.

The commission is investigating what it would take to make a regional bid application to host the largest multi-sport event in Canada.

"I think Niagara is primed for something like this," said commission CEO Bram Cotton Wednesday. "My hope is that we can get the mayors and the regional politicians to stand up and say 'You know what, we want the games. It's our time.'"

Held every four years, the summer games could see an estimated 4,600 athletes, coaches and managers from 17 sports converge in Niagara for a 16-day event.

Ontario is confirmed to host the 2021 games — the third time in the province — and it will be up to individual regions or municipalities to make their cases.

St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik attended the meeting in Toronto and said he thinks Niagara could crack the top three places to stage it.

"I think it's right within our wheelhouse as a region to do this," he said, adding Niagara can check off the boxes on what it can offer, whether boating on Lake Ontario and Lake Erie to cycling through Short Hills.

He said it costs about $30 million to put on the games, with $10.3 million from the province, a similar amount from the federal government and the rest expected from sponsorships and ticket sales.

Sendzik said he reviewed the past few games and the infrastructure and sport legacy is impressive. Unlike larger events like the Olympics, he said the Canada Games don't lose money and communities have made additional dollars back.

Cotton said the last summer games in Sherbrooke in 2013 left a $510,000 surplus and $2 million in a financial legacy fund. The games in PEI in 2009 had a $3.3-million surplus.

Cotton estimated Niagara has about 85 per cent of the infrastructure and venues necessary to host the games and is in a better position than many places.

"We're proposing a Niagara region-wide bid because it would probably be very difficult for St. Catharines or Welland or Niagara Falls on their own. It's very involved, very complex," Cotton said.

Niagara's biggest deficit is a stadium for track and field events that would also serve as the site of opening and closing ceremonies.

That's not a "make or break," Cotton said, explaining there are other track and field facilities Niagara could make due with. But a new facility would be a great legacy piece for generations to use, he said.

Niagara could also use more 50-metre pools and a dive tank.

Cotton said there's an opportunity for infrastructure money through the event to build or upgrade facilities.

The commission's plan is to hold events in as many Niagara municipalities as possible, while doing what's most beneficial for the athletes to compete at a high level, he said.

While St. Catharines would be the obvious choice for rowing and Welland for flatwater events, other sports such as beach volleyball, baseball and soccer have multiple options for locations. Sports such as cycling and triathalon would cross more than one municipal border.

"Those decisions happen much farther down the road from where we're at right now," Cotton said. "For us, the big thing is how do we get Niagara to agree we need to be in the game, and once we're in the game we can have those wider, larger types of discussions."

If Niagara Sport Commission does move forward with the bidding process, a letter of intent is due on May 20. The bid fee is about $30,000, Cotton said.

In July the Canada Games Council will complete site visits and do preliminary bid evaluations. It short-lists eligible bid cities in August. Comprehensive bids and evaluations would happen in the new year with a winning bid announced in April 2017, the year the games will be held in Winnipeg.

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Niagara Parks Commission is putting the call out for local musicians to perform during its Coca-Cola Concert series every weekend, running from Victoria Day long weekend to Labour Day.

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Concert cancelled

Bravo Niagara's Milos concert at the Court House in NOTL has been postponed until June. Photo by Andy Earl/Mercury Classics

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Owl prowls take place this weekend across Niagara

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

Niagara Nature Tour's fourth annual day-time owl prowl will be held this weekend.

"We have worked very hard to find the locations of wild owls for us to see, and are hoping to see three to four native species this year," says Carla Carlson, owner of the tour company. The owls are found from Niagara West through to Fort Erie.

For the very first Owl Prowl in 1998, 21 people signed up, said Carlson.

"We saw four species and seven owls in total, which is fabulous because of how secretive they are. Since we were able to start conducting (the owl prowls) again in 2013, at least 327 people have seen five to six species and on one memorable day, 13 individual owls. In the past we have seen eastern screech, northern saw-whet, snowy, long-eared, short-eared and a great horned owl on her nest."

Carlson says several NOTL residents have reported hearing great horned owls singing at this time of year. The owls are very territorial, she says, and almost any woodlot or forested area should have a pair of great horned owls, the mother sitting on her nest. They are most likely to be heard at dusk, and provide an opportunity for residents to find their nest - but should be very careful not to disturb the mother or she could abandon her eggs.

Scouts are on the look-out for owls in NOTL and other areas, and although she isn't promising anything, she hopes to have found a pair of great-horned owls to include in the prowl this weekend.

A lot of work goes into organizing an owl prowl and many hours over months are put in ahead of time scouting for the owls, says Carlson, so that on the day of the prowl, there is a good chance at actual sightings.

"And this time of year is a good time to see the owls. The leaves are off the trees, the birds are out flying and hunting and some are sitting in nest boxes. If we are lucky we'll see a great horned owl sitting on her nest. It's the right time of the year as believe it or not they've already bred and laid their eggs."

Riding in a motor coach with a washroom and comfortable seats, says Carlson, the group will be escorted by Marcie Jacklin from Fort Erie, an internationally recognized local birder explaining about Niagara's owls. Entertaining participants with owl songs, facts, and quizzes, there are draws and owl related prizes that Carlson has collected throughout the year. There will also be a draw for four people to go to Vineland's Owl Foundation during their annual donor tours in the autumn.

There will be a break for lunch at the Smokin' Buddha or Canalside Restaurants in Port Colborne.

"We are giving people a choice of which restaurant to go to as the Smokin' Buddha is famous for its spicy, exotic food."

Fun for both young and old alike, there is limited walking so it is a very accessible outing. Seniors with walkers have attended in the past, and anyone with a wheelchair accessible vehicle is welcome to follow the bus, and join the tour at each stop, she says.

The field trip runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration for the Feb. 20 and 21 owl prowls has started and space is limited, says Carlson.

For more information call 905-562-3746 or 1-888-889-8296 or visit www.niagaranaturetours.ca

Niagara Nature Tours is offering another owl prowl, an opportunity to see owls such as this grey screech, this Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 20 and 21. Photo by Wayne Allen

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NOTL loses active, respected member of community

RANDY KLAASSEN
Special to the Advance

Bob Augustine was not aware of it, but I think he was adopted - by the community.

A relatively recent resident of Virgil, Bob died Jan. 18, having immersed himself in the community - he had come to be loved and appreciated, and then left us all too soon.

Bob was born and grew up south of the border. He studied economics, and then became a lawyer. After working in corporate law, he referred to the job as "soul-deadening." Having enjoyed reading Russian novels, he took a variety of jobs to support his studies of Russian history, in which he eventually earned his PhD.

Bob's passionate knowledge of Russian history and literature brought him north to teach at Glendon College at York University. He expanded his field of teaching by becoming a chess tutor. After a number of years Bob adopted Canada as his country by becoming a citizen.

The craft of teaching can be a solemn lesson in patience. Teachers may have moments of success in the classroom, but the real substance of their work only becomes evident years later when students become successful in their own careers. It would seem Bob had a good number of them.

After an extended stint as "Senior Scholar" Bob fully retired and moved to NOTL, where his life became anything but quiet.

History, Bob's life passion, directed him to the Niagara Historical Society where he became involved as a volunteer with the Walking Tours of the Old Town. He also participated as an actor for cemetery tours by taking on the persona of Rev. Robert Addison, the founding minister of St. Mark's Anglican Church. While Bob knew his history, apparently he did not know how to dress properly, as most of the time preparing play the role of Rev. Addison he apparently needed to be assisted with his costume.

Bob also loved his pets, and volunteered at an animal shelter. He attended the NOTL Rotary Club meetings, and was a fierce team player at trivia. To enjoy cruise ship tours Bob served as a guest lecturer, and quickly learned whatever topic was requested of him.

One of Bob's most endearing relationships developed across his backyard in Virgil. Not sure what to make of the neighbours' invitation to join their four rowdy grandsons in their swimming pool, Bob took it in stride by later walking over wearing swim shorts, sandals, hat and a towel across his shoulder. Upon seeing the young rowdies Bob barked out, "Arrrrr! There's the pirates!" and proceeded to join them in the pool. Herb and Diann Lepp's grandsons were thereafter always referred to by Bob as "the pirates," and the boys responded by calling him "Mr. Bob."

One other significant contribution by Bob Augustine to the NOTL community was his research, specifically of Mennonites in the Virgil area. Working on a companion book to David Hemmings' "The Cross Roads," Bob had been researching the personal stories of Mennonites who first began settling in the Virgil area in the 1930s and '40s. Unfortunately Bob died Jan. 18, not having completed his project.

I believe in the short time Bob lived in NOTL, he was adopted into the hearts and homes of a number of residents. Bob's gentle nature, inquisitive capacity to learn, and enthusiasm to teach others, endeared him to many people.

As one friend said, "Bob made this community a better and more interesting place to live in."

Thanks, Bob.

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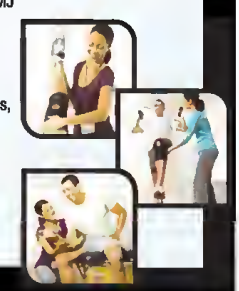

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Niagara natives search for happiness

SARAH FERGUSON
Postmedia Network

Two Niagara natives have set out on a quest to find the answer to an important question.

They want to know what makes women happy.

Lindsey Middleton, from Fort Erie, and Niagara-on-the-Lake's Cornelia Audrey headed off on a 10-country adventure last November with the purpose of meeting women from different cultures to ask what inspires happiness in them.

Over the course of four months, they spoke with women of all ages and from different cultures and recorded the answers using an Iphone camera. Their stops included Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, and New Zealand.

"Our first interviews, we were really shy about it. We didn't know how to break the ice," Audrey said.

They asked women about what happiness means to them, what inspires them and whether or not happiness is a choice.

"It was interesting because we were able to interview women from all walks of life. We asked people who come from poverty and we asked people who don't come from poverty about what makes them happy. It was different."

One woman who left a profound impression on Audrey was from Vietnam.

"Her husband had lost his leg in the war but she was so happy and thankful for the things they had; they raised a pig in the backyard, her husband was healthy and her child was in school."

The pair agree the experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that has changed the way they view life.

"We ended up talking to people we wouldn't normally interact with. There was one lady from Singapore that affected us. She was our hostel custodian. She saw us interviewing people and she became interested in what we were doing," Middleton said.

"This women had a heart-breaking life and she moved to Singapore, which is an expensive place to live, so she could help her son live his dream. It made her so happy that it brought her to tears talking about it."

Audrey and Middleton interviewed close to 60 women and the result became an online web series called *HappyHer*, now on YouTube.

The first season features 11 episodes that are 10 minutes in length. A new episode is released once a month and the next episode, to be released on Feb. 20, will feature women from across Niagara.

Through the process of travelling and filming the project, Audrey said she learned happiness is in "the simple pleasures."

"The common thread is friendship and community. For myself, if I don't have community than I am not happy."

Music, dancing and art are all things that also make Audrey happy.

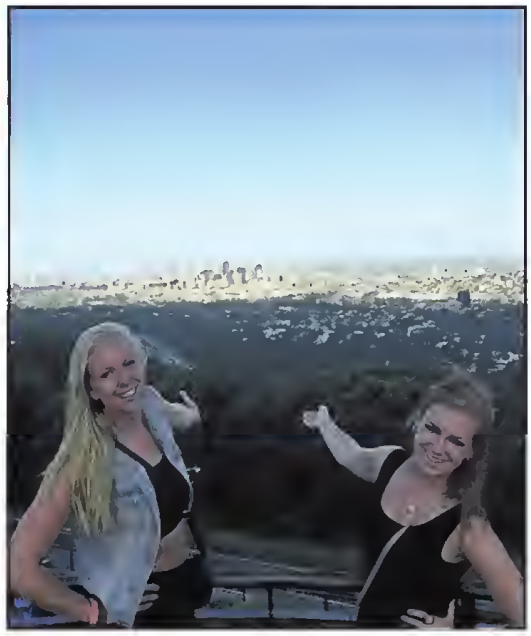
"Turning on the music and dancing around the house, sometimes I think there is nothing better," she said.

Middleton is still discovering what makes her happy.

"That's why I love this project. I am constantly changing and it's exciting to hear what other people have to say and just learn. I don't know if I can pin point any one thing for me."

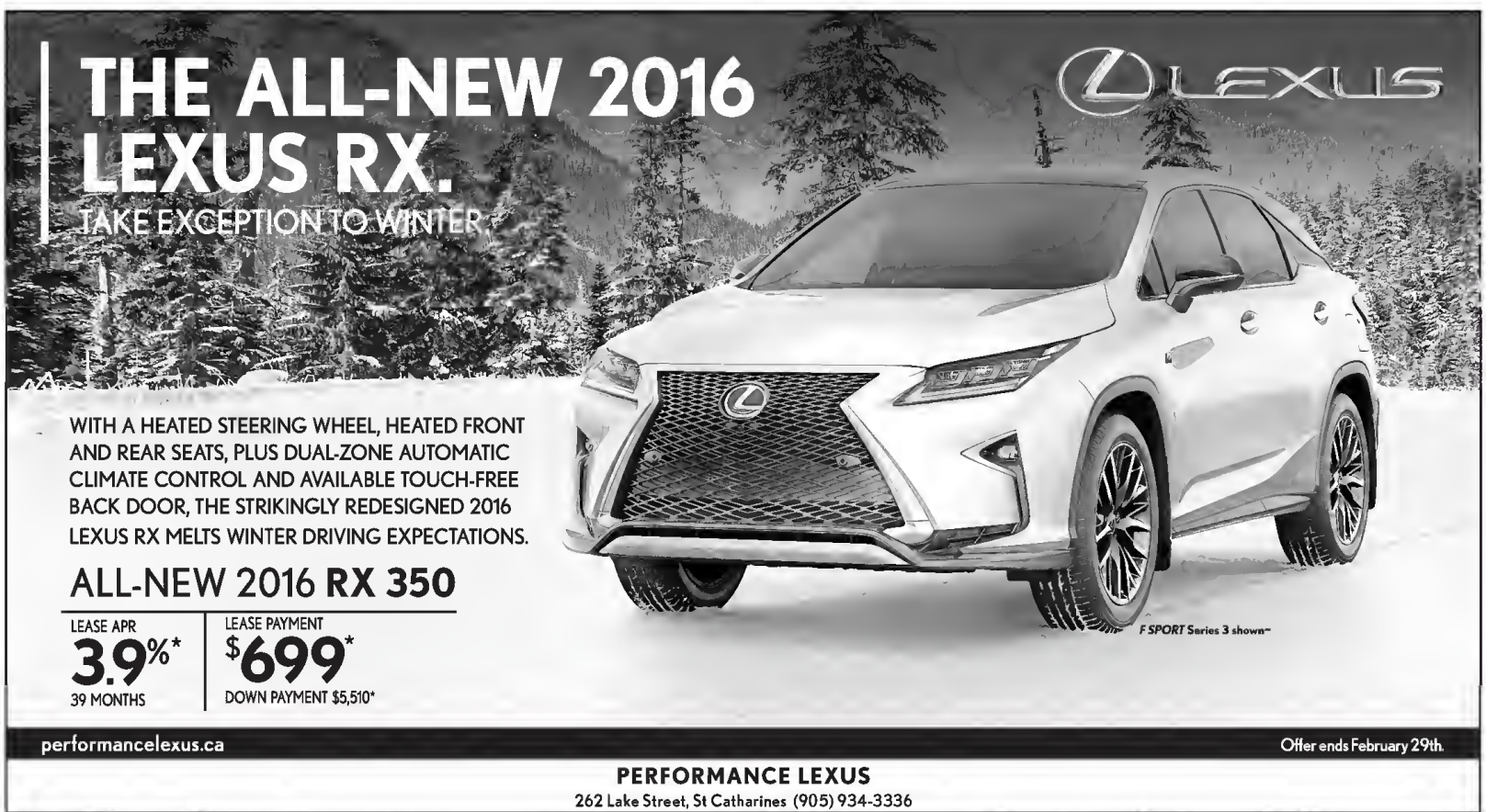
Middleton and Audrey, who both studied theatre at the University of Toronto and Sheridan College and currently reside in Toronto, said they want to continue to explore what makes women happy during season two of *HappyHer*. They are raising funds to travel abroad and volunteer for an organization that has yet to be decided. All of the proceeds raised will go toward the charity Audrey and Middleton will support.

For more information about the series visit www.happyhertheseries.com



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Cornelia Audrey and Lindsey Middleton of Fort Erie headed off on a 10-country adventure last November with the purpose of meeting women from different cultures to ask what inspires happiness in them. They are pictured in Australia.



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~2016 RX 350 F SPORT Series 3 shown $71,083. *Lease offers provided through Lexus Financial Services, on approved credit. *Representative lease example based on a 2016 RX 350 sfx 'A' on a 39 month term at an annual rate of 3.9% and Complete Lexus Price of $57,033. Monthly payment is $699 with $5,510 down payment or equivalent trade in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $32,786. 65,000 kilometre allowance, charge of $0.20/km for excess kilometres. Complete Lexus Price includes freight/PDI ($2,045), Dealer fees, EHF Tires ($29), EHF Filters ($1), A/C charge ($100), and OMVIC Fee ($10). Taxes, license, registration (if applicable) and insurance are extra. Lexus Dealers are free to set their own prices. Limited time offers only apply to retail customers at participating Lexus Dealers. Dealer order/trade may be required. Offers are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Offers expire at month's end unless extended or revised. See your Lexus Dealer for complete details.

NIAGARAADVANCE.CA

Jump Rope for Heart

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Led by local personal trainers Jaclyn Willms (centre) and Jena Slingerland of NOTL Fitness and Rehab, students in Grades 5 to 8 at Crossroads Public School in NOTL put their hearts into physical fitness activities as part of the school's celebration of Jump Rope for Heart last Thursday, recognizing Heart and Stroke Month. In addition to celebrating the importance of healthy living and heart health, students also made a contribution to the Heart and Stroke Fund.

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Sale prices in effect Friday Feb. 19 through Thursday Feb. 25, 2016

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19 TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

SAVE 25% ON SELECTED TIRES

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*See inside back page for details. Min $200.

Balancing, sales tax and eco fees are extra.

MOTOMASTER 1933 — TOURING AW/H TOURING
PROMO 74.99 ea, up. Reg 99.99 ea, up 195/60R14 86H
PROMO 25.00†† month
299.96 TOTAL PRICE OF 4 TIRES
TIRE TEST RESULTS
OVERALL SCORE 91.9

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PROMO 97.49 ea, up. Reg 129.99 ea, up 185/65R15 88H
PROMO 32.50†† month
389.96 TOTAL PRICE OF 4 TIRES
TIRE TEST RESULTS
OVERALL SCORE 95.7

COOPER TIRES — DISCOVERER A/TW LIGHT TRUCK
TESTED FOR LIFE IN CANADA
PROMO 142.49 ea, up. Reg 189.99 ea, up 245/70R16 107S
PROMO 47.50†† month
569.96 TOTAL PRICE OF 4 TIRES
TIRE TEST RESULTS
OVERALL SCORE 95.9

MOTOMASTER 1933 — TOTAL TERRAIN APX/APL LIGHT TRUCK
PROMO 101.24 ea, up. Reg 134.99 ea, up 225/70R16 103T
PROMO 33.75†† month
404.96 TOTAL PRICE OF 4 TIRES
TIRE TEST RESULTS
OVERALL SCORE 93.7/92.5

SAVE 10% ON MOTOMASTER AWII TIRES

Balancing, sales tax and eco fees are extra.

MOTOMASTER 1933 — AW II ALL-SEASON
PROMO 53.09 ea, up. Reg 58.99 ea, up 175/70R14
PROMO 17.70†† month
212.36 TOTAL PRICE OF 4 TIRES
TIRE TEST RESULTS
OVERALL SCORE 96.3

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News Briefs

Pilot project will aid tender fruit growers

Applications are now being accepted for a pilot project that will see up to 130,000 tender fruit trees planted in Niagara.

The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and Ontario Tender Fruit Growers have launched an initiative intended to provide a financial boost to area growers while helping to strengthen the tender fruit industry.

The project, which includes work with government and industry partners and a $400,000 investment from the foundation, aims to help the region produce new and better tender fruit varieties.

The foundation's support provides eligible growers with 25 per cent of the cost of each tender fruit tree.

Planting will begin this spring and produce is expected to reach the market as early as summer 2019.

Friends of the Foundation says after three to four years, that harvest from up to 500 acres of new trees will add about $4 million to Ontario's economy.

Applications are available at www.ontariotenderfruit.ca by clicking on the Growers section.

They will also be available at the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention Feb. 17 and 18 at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls.

Deadline to apply is March 31.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

The NOTL Tennis Club held a Tennis Winterfest at Memorial Park to celebrate Family Day, with about 50 eager participants including many children. It was a cold day but everyone kept warm with special games organized by the club's tennis pro, Shawna Macfarlane.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Worship Directory

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH
1453 York Road, St. Davids
905-262-5242
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca
Minister: Rev Paul James
Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
Nursery and Sunday School
Come and celebrate God's love for us all

Live Life With Us
German Worship: 10 am | Worship Service: 11 am
Niagara United Mennonite Church
1775 Niagara Stone Road, NOTL
(905) 468-3313 | redbrickchurch.ca
Pastors: Rudy & Sharon Dirks, Stephen Cox

VILLAGE Bible Church
736 York Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-688-2525
Sunday, January 21st
10:00 am Coffee Time
10:30 am Worship Service
Village Kidz (ages 1 - grade 5)
Reset Life:
Communicating With The Creator
Pastor Greg Alderton
www.villagebiblechurch.ca

Amazing Grace United Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday Service
Minister: Rev. Laura Borgerson
Director of Music: Esther Giesbrecht
222 Victoria Street, NOTL
905-468-4044
www.graceunitedchurch.com
Parking passes available on Sunday morning

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
www.ccchurch.ca • 905-468-7155
Sunday, February 21st
10 am Worship Gathering & Kids Ministry
Message by: Kevin Bayne, Pastor
Title: Pointing to Jesus - John 3:22-36

www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org
ORCHARD PARK BIBLE CHURCH
434 Hunter Rd.
905-468-5731
Sunday, February 21st
9:30 am - Sunday school for ages 4 - 17
9:45 am - Adult Prayer Time
10:45 am - Worship Service
Message by Bruce Guenther, Ephesians 4:1-17
Nursery is provided during the message

life abundant niagara
Pastor Rick Mills
384 Concession 7 Rd
905 688 3958
Sunday, February 21st
current series
A Good Father
Message: His Glory
9:30AM coffee 10:30AM worship
info@lifeabundantniagara.com
www.lifeabundantniagara.com

ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
41 Byron Street
Founded 1792
Sunday Services
8:30 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday Service 10:00 am
905-468-3123
Interim Priest: The Venerable Bruce McPetrie
www.stmarks1792.com

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10:00 am Worship Service
Pastor Larry Ritter - http://trinitynotl.com

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Legals

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

IN THE ESTATE OF OALTON CYRIL LLOYD ELLIOTT deceased.

ALL claims against the Estate of Oalton Cyril Lloyd Elliott, of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on December 19, 2015, must be filed with the undersigned on or before March 18, 2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to claims then received.
Dated at Niagara Falls, ON this 1st day of February, 2016

SHARPE, BERESH & GNYS
Barristers and Solicitors
4673 Ontario Avenue
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 3R1

Calvin Wm. Beresh
Solicitor for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

Those with claims against the estate of **CECELIA MARIE-THERESE duBERN, usually known as TERRY duBERN**, late of Niagara-on-the-Lake, who died on March 2, 2014 are notified to send particulars to the undersigned by March 18, 2016 after which the Estate will be distributed with regard only to claims received.

Dated at Hamilton, February 11, 2016.

DAVID REID SIMPSON,
Legal Professional Corporation
950 King Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 1K8
905-527-1174
Lawyers for Executor

businessdirectory

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A Celebration Gathering

Remembering Nina Cole

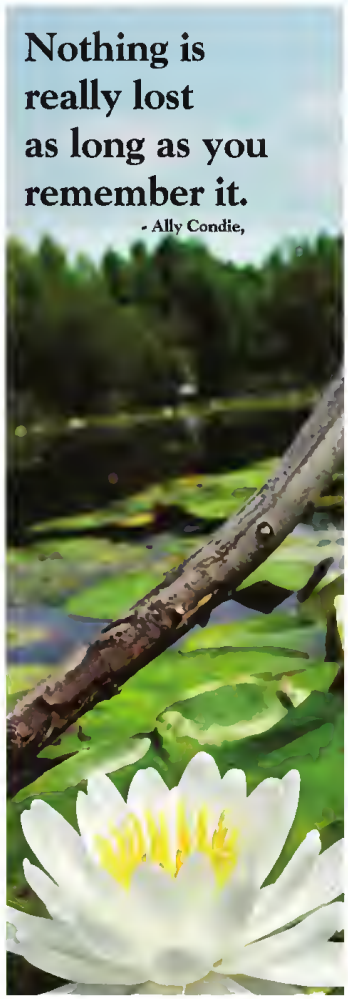
YOU'RE INVITED
to a Celebration of Life Event for Nina Cole, PhD
Sunday, February 21, 2016, from 2-4 pm at the Community Centre

Rotary is taking donations to her favourite Charity "The Gift of Life". Please Send Cheques to Rotary, Box 1232 Niagara-on-the-Lake ON. L0S 1J0

Coming Events

Coming Events

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION (Merritton Branch) St. Catharines Brain Wave Cafe 2 Chestnut St. E. St. Catharines 2nd & 4th Tues of the month 1:30- 3 p.m.



Obituaries

Obituaries

McGALE, Barbara Irene - After a battle with pancreatic cancer on Saturday, February 13, 2016, Barb joined the Lord she loved and to whom she had given her life. She will be missed by her beloved husband, Bernie, as well as many friends in Niagara. Barb is survived by her mother, Mildred Jackson; brothers Doug (Inara) and Don (Beth); and sister Janet Riddell. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Barb is predeceased by her father, Bob and brother, Bill. The family will receive friends at **MORGAN FUNERAL HOME**, 415 Regent St., on Thursday from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. The funeral service will be conducted by Mrs. Beth Alma at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 323 Simcoe St., on Friday, February 19, 2016 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Andrew's Church Capital Fund. Memories, photos and condolences can be shared at
www.morganfuneral.com
Philippians 1:21
For to me, to live is Christ, to die is gain.

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ADVANCE Notices

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FISH FRY
Public Welcome
Take Out Available
Every Thursday 4:30 - 7:30
New Members Welcome
Royal Canadian Legion
Branch # 124, 410 King Street, NOTL
Hall Rental Available ~ Call 905-468-2353

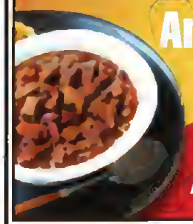
ST. DAVIDS LIONS HALL RENTAL
1462 York Road
ANY EVENT
905-262-4844

Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society Meeting
Tuesday, February 23rd
RECONSTITUTING THE HISTORICAL GARDENS AT DUNDURN CASTLE

Victoria Bick
Victoria will talk of the ongoing trials and tribulations of maintaining the historical gardens at Dundurn.
Community Centre 14 Anderson Lane
Refreshments: 6:30pm : Meeting: 7:00pm
Visitors and new members welcome
www.notlhortsociety.com

World Relief Breakfast
Sat., February 27 ~ 8 to 9:30 am.
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2027 Niagara Stone Rd @ Hunter Rd
http://trinitynotl.com 905-468-2611
Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs and Sausage
Provided by PigOut Roasters
Donations to help a local refugee family gladly accepted!

Friday, FEBRUARY 26th
5 pm – 7 pm
Annual CHILI Supper
AND CHILI TO GO!



CHRIST CHURCH McNab
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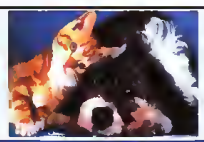
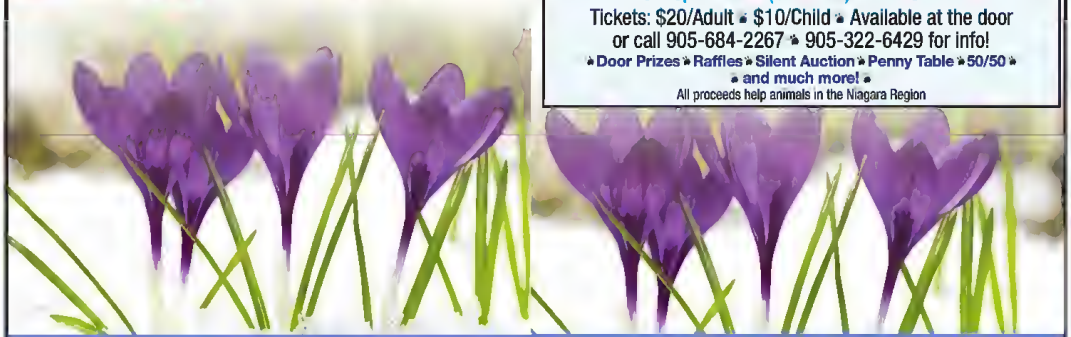
Adults: $12, Children 6-12: $6, 5 & under: Free
For Info or Tickets please call: 905-680-7022



ANIMAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY
Fundraiser Buffet Dinner & Vegan Options
Sunday, February 28, 2016
Club LaSalle,
111 Arthur St., St Catharines
Doors open: 4 PM (Cash bar) ~ Dinner : 5 PM
Tickets: $20/Adult • $10/Child • Available at the door
or call 905-684-2267 • 905-322-6429 for info!
• Door Prizes • Raffles • Silent Auction • Penny Table • 50/50 •
• and much more! •
All proceeds help animals in the Niagara Region



Place your Coming Event / Community Calendar Social here, with or without a border, Colour, Graphics optional. Include your Logo!
Deadline: Monday 3 pm
Call Anna at 905-468-3283 ext 102

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GO announcement expected this summer

Region leaders confident Niagara will be included in expansion

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Niagara's political leaders say they hope for an announcement regarding GO train expansion to the region by the end of June.

Confident it has presented a comprehensive business case to see full-time rail service introduced locally, the working group behind the plan anticipates Niagara being included in the next round of GO Transit expansion projects.

In a briefing at St. Catharines city hall last Tuesday, Regional Chairman Alan Caslin said a list of communities for consideration is being assembled by the province prior to its 2016 budget deliberations.

"We believe our business case is solid, and our goal is to have Niagara included in the next wave of GO expansion — all the way from Stoney Creek to Niagara Falls."

He said 2017 is "when we'd like to see trains chugging down the tracks."

With GO service already available in Niagara Falls during summer months, Caslin said infrastructure is in place to accommodate full-time service.

While upgrades to stations are likely needed, it will be up to the province to determine specific modifications required for the commuter service to be successful, he said.

It's estimated in the business case that it will be about two years between the time the green light is given for the expansion and the time when the Niagara line — including commuter stops in Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Grimsby — is fully operational.

It will include seven trains in and seven trains out of St. Catharines each day. Two of those trains will travel past the Garden City to Niagara Falls and back daily.

Both political leaders and regional staff remain in regular contact with the Ministry of Transportation to continue lobbying for the expansion, Caslin said.

"They have assured us, time and time again, that (the business case) is in the centre of their desk, not at the side of their desk, and has their full attention," he said.

With Niagara Region committing a total of $40 million to the project in 2016 and 2017, local dollars are covering one-third of the estimated $100 million to $120 million expansion cost.

In the "grand scheme of things, it's not a major ask compared to other asks," Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said.

"It's the No. 1 unanimous ask of half a million people, and we're putting a third of the cost into the game. It just makes a lot of sense politically and businesswise for the province to deliver on this one."

Diodati has heard from people using the existing commuter service who say ridership includes a substantial number of Niagarans.

"If you go to the Burlington train stations and look at the cars in the lot, the majority of them are from Niagara when you look at the dealership plates," he said.

Frustration with the lack of daily rail service in the region has been expressed by the public, Diodati said, adding quality of life is affected by lengthy commuter times experienced by thousands of residents.

"It's beyond time that Niagara gets included and integrated into this transportation system of the province," he said.

A 2011 Ministry of Transportation survey indicated in a 24-hour period, more than 50,000 people make the trip in and out of Niagara, with 8,600 people going daily from Niagara to Hamilton, said Matt Robinson, the Region's associate director of corporate communications and intergovernmental affairs.

An additional 7,500 people travel from Niagara to Halton, Peel and Toronto, he said.

Similar numbers, he said, are shown coming back to Niagara each day.

BOB TYMCZYSZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Mayors including Jim Diodati (speaking) from Niagara Falls, St. Catharines mayor Walter Sendzik, Niagara-on-the-Lake Mayor Patrick Darte and Town of Lincoln Mayor Sandra Easton joined Niagara regional chair Alan Caslin for an update last Tuesday on their proposal on extending GO train service into the Niagara Region.

While Niagara awaits the coveted announcement, work is continuing on the region's transportation master plan and discussions are underway to create a Niagara-wide intermunicipal transit system, St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik said.

The mayors and CAOs of Niagara's three largest municipalities — Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls — are working alongside regional leaders to determine what that amalgamation model might look like.

Recommendations are expected to be presented to the regional transportation steering committee by September.

Sendzik said the goal is to have an integrated system operational by 2017 designed not only to link to the GO stations, but also to feed into each of the communities.

Updated information on the GO file is available at niagarago.ca.

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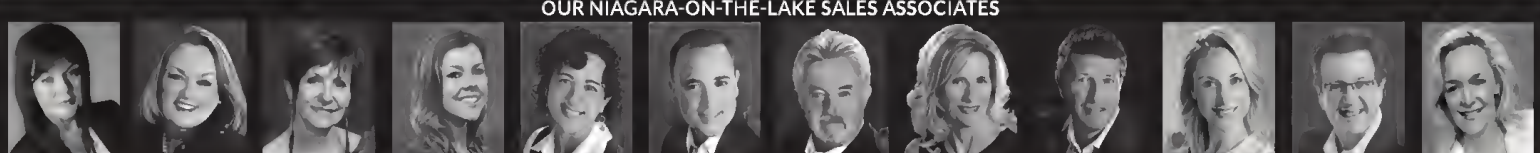

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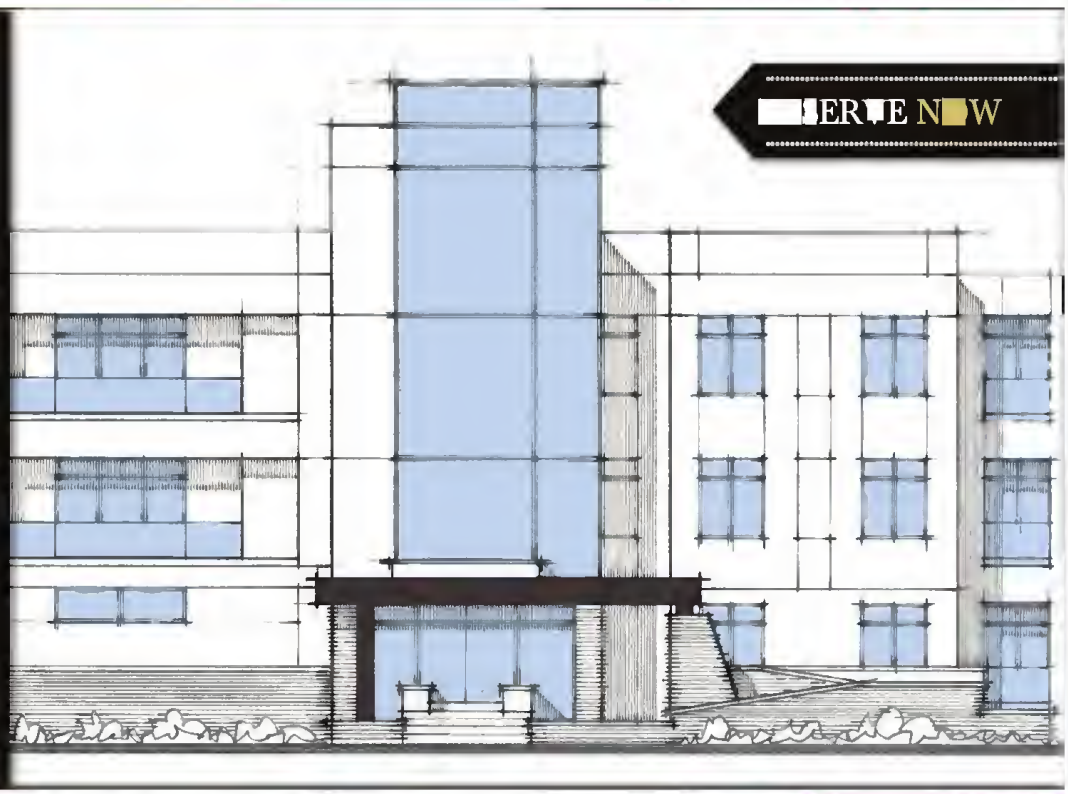

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